MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (i) The major portion, *i. e.*, about 2,000 acres, is jungle land.

(ii) No permanent buildings have been put up, but in a portion of the area falling in the Kottayam Division, a few temporary huts are reported to be put up during the cultivation time, which are neglected after the season is over.

(iii) Only a very small portion of the block, falling in the Kottayam Division, has been unauthorisedly encroached upon and cleared for shifting cultivation and even here only small areas have been planted with rubber, cocoanut and other crops.

(iv) The proposed block is bounded on three sides by reserved forests and on one side by registered and unregistered lands.

(v) The Nurvakad temple is outside the proposed area.

(vi) The occupants are said to be the hirelings of rich men who have encroached on the land.

(vii) The Forest Settlement Officer, who will be appointed, will go into such matters and decide each case on its merits.

(*b*) Some land is available outside the proposed area for cultivation and for homesteads in the three *pakuthies*.

(*c*) Government are not aware.

(*d*) Government have no information.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): With regard to answer to part (*a*) (i) of the question, will the Government be pleased to state whether there are any trees upon those 2,000 acres?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): In jungle lands, ordinarily there will be trees. I cannot say whether there are any trees there now or not.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): What does he say with respect to the area encroached upon?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is not forest land. It has been cleared.

Appointments made by Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai, Conservator of Forests.

126. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing, caste by caste, the appointments made by the present Conservator of Forests since his assumption of charge of the Department?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): No new appointments have been made since the present Conservator of Forests assumed charge of the Department. The subordinates who were already in service and who were thrown out during the re-organisation of the department in 1098 are re-entertained in temporary vacancies in the order of seniority in service.

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